

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION

|                               |   |                             |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| JAMES HELENTHAL,              | ) |                             |
|                               | ) |                             |
| Plaintiff,                    | ) |                             |
|                               | ) |                             |
| vs.                           | ) | Case No. 4:08-CV-1791 (CEJ) |
|                               | ) |                             |
| CHARLES E. POLK, JR., et al., | ) |                             |
|                               | ) |                             |
| Defendants.                   | ) |                             |

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER**

On February 22, 2010, the Court granted the motion of defendant Lathrop & Gage LLP for imposition of sanctions against plaintiff and his counsel, pursuant to Rule 11, Fed.R.Civ.P. The Court directed defendant to submit a verified statement of the attorney's fees and expenses it incurred in connection with the case.<sup>1</sup> Defendant has submitted the necessary statement, seeking \$19,012.39 in attorney's fees for work completed by Armstrong Teasdale, \$46,789.50 for work completed by in-house lawyers, and \$4,508.33 for expenses.

Defendant has submitted detailed billing records for work done by retained counsel Armstrong Teasdale. The Eighth Circuit has already approved the hourly rates requested by counsel for Lathrop & Gage and this Court will do the same.

The Court has disallowed as excessive some of the entries for reviewing the electronic docket. In addition, entries stating merely "emails" or "telephone conferences" have been disallowed as too vague to permit meaningful review. Finally,

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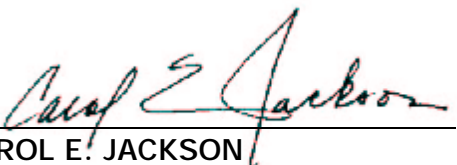
<sup>1</sup>On January 19, 2011, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered plaintiff to pay defendant Lathrop & Gage LLP \$26,422.50 in attorney's fees and \$186.00 in double costs, pursuant to Rule 38, Fed.R.App.P. (addressing damages and costs for frivolous appeals).

the Court has disallowed fees for clerical or secretarial tasks, such as e-filing. Spegon v. Catholic Bishop of Chicago, 175 F.3d 544, 553 (7th Cir. 1999) (fees for “simple administrative tasks” disallowed); see also Torgeson v. Unum Life Ins. Co. of America, 2007 WL 433540 \*5 (N.D. Iowa Feb. 5, 2007) (party not entitled to reimbursement for expenses that are part of normal office overhead) (citing Emery v. Hunt, 272 F.3d 1042, 1048 (8th Cir.2001)). The Court will award defendant the sum of \$15,815.00 in attorney’s fees and \$63.08 in expenses for work completed by Armstrong Teasdale.

With respect to Lathrop & Gage’s in-house attorney’s fees, the Court has disallowed entries for checking the online docket and excessive review of the administrative order transferring the case. The Court will award attorney’s fees in the amount of \$46,264.00 for work completed by in-house counsel and \$4,508.33 for their expenses, for a total award to defendant Lathrop & Gage in the amount of \$62,079.00 for attorney’s fees and \$4,568.72 for costs.

Accordingly,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that attorney James E. Hullverson, Jr., and Hullverson and Hullverson, LLC., shall pay to defendant Lathrop & Gage LLP \$62,079.00 in attorney’s fees and \$4,568.72 in expenses, for a total amount of \$66,647.72.

  
CAROL E. JACKSON  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Dated this 14th day of February, 2011.